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Construction Information Memorandum Number 4-2007

TO: ALDOT Division Engineers

FROM: Terry McDuffie
Construction Engineer

RE: Vegetation Establishment and Project Acceptance

It is the intent of the Chief Engineer's office as well as this office that a satisfactory stand of permanent vegetation of the required species be established prior to any project being accepted for maintenance. Bonds as described in Subarticle 105.15(c) of the Standard Specifications should not be used as a substitute for established vegetation of a permanent species. The attached special provision has been created to clarify in our future contracts the intended purposes for partial acceptance and bonds covering vegetation. The remainder of this memorandum is to provide further clarification of current internal policies regarding vegetation establishment and project acceptance.

When requested by the Contractor in writing and it is in the best interest of ALDOT, the Division Engineer may consider accepting for maintenance a portion of the project prior to all work items being completed. Under no circumstances will individual items of work that have not been satisfactorily completed be considered for acceptance. Additional costs for completing the remaining items of work as a consequence of a partial acceptance shall be borne by the contractor.

Bonds may be required at the discretion of the Division Engineer to guarantee sustained vegetation growth provided that they are required in accordance with requirements given in subarticle 105.15(c) and cover all costs related to establishing the permanent vegetation should it become necessary. Considerations would include costs for labor, materials and equipment for traffic control, temporary erosion and sediment control and permanent vegetation establishment.

Partial acceptance for maintenance due to vegetation establishment should only be considered during seasons and in areas of the project where the planting of permanent species is prohibited. This generally includes areas subject to frequent mowing as defined in Section 860 in Fall and Winter.

Procedure for Partial Acceptance for Maintenance of items requested due to incomplete vegetation establishment (ref. 107.21(d), 105.15):

- Contractor requests Partial Acceptance for Maintenance.
- Construction Acceptance Inspection is performed.
- Recommend Acceptance for Maintenance of all completed items.
 - Areas of vegetation establishment would not be accepted if not complete.
 - Areas where vegetation has not been established must be stabilized using a seed mix designated for use during Fall and Winter.
 - Temporary erosion and sediment control BMPs would remain in place if required.
 - Contractor is notified that ALDOT will assume maintenance of the accepted items.
- Consider removal of traffic control if requested by contractor.
- The contractor returns in March to establish permanent vegetation.
 - Temporary traffic control, if necessary would be at the contractor's expense.

After permanent vegetation is established from seeding operations performed in March:

- Perform a Construction Acceptance Inspection of areas previously not accepted for maintenance.
- Accept remaining items for maintenance if complete.
- The Division will request NPDES Permit Termination within 10 Days of Acceptance for Maintenance. (ref. 107.21(d))
- The contractor is responsible for correcting problems associated with onsite erosion and off site sediment deposition until NPDES Permit Termination or for 30 days after the submittal of the request for permit termination.
- The contractor is notified that ALDOT will assume maintenance and that acceptance is subject to the record check of materials and workmanship.

TM/BF

pc: Mr. G.M. Harper
Mr. D.E. Phillips
FHWA
CIM File